

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 4~~

A wire cutting system for resecting a bone through incisions of the type utilized for arthroscopic procedures, the system comprising:

a first alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into a bone in a first orientation;

a second alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into the bone in a second orientation;

a wire saw; and

a guide block formed to include a first guide hole extending through the block, the first guide hole being sized to receive a drill sized to form a hole in the bone, the hole sized to receive the first alignment pin,

wherein the first alignment pin and the second alignment pin are configured and oriented to define a resection surface of reference through which the bone is to be resected and the wire saw is configured to be inserted through at least one of the incisions and for extending at least from the first alignment pin to the second alignment pin to be simultaneously guided by the first and second alignment pins while being moved to resect the bone,

wherein the first alignment pin has a length sufficient that the first alignment pin extends completely through the bone with a first tip extending beyond the bone on a first side and a second tip extending beyond the bone on an opposite side of the bone, and the second alignment pin has a length sufficient that the second alignment pin extends completely through the bone with a third tip extending beyond the bone on the first side and a fourth tip extending beyond the bone on the opposite side,

wherein the resection surface of reference is a plane, and

wherein the guide block is formed to include a first saw guide and a second saw guide said first and second saw guides being positioned to guide the wire saw along the resection plane of reference when the wire saw is received in the first and second saw guides.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6 wherein the first alignment pin has a length sufficient that the first alignment pin extends completely through the bone with the first one tip extending beyond the bone on the a first side and the second tip extending beyond the bone on the opposite side and into the first guide hole when the guide block is positioned on the opposite side of the bone.

Claims 8-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 9~~

A wire cutting system for resecting a bone through incisions of the type utilized for arthroscopic procedures, the system comprising:

a first alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into a bone in a first orientation;

a second alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into the bone in a second orientation;

a wire saw; and

a guide block formed to include a first guide hole extending through the block, the first guide hole being sized to receive a drill sized to form a hole in the bone, the hole sized to receive the first alignment pin,

wherein the first alignment pin and the second alignment pin are configured and oriented to define a resection surface of reference through which the bone is to be resected and the wire saw is configured to be inserted through at least one of the incisions and for extending at least from the first alignment pin to the second alignment pin to be simultaneously guided by the first and second alignment pins while being moved to resect the bone,

wherein the first alignment pin has a length sufficient that the first alignment pin extends completely through the bone with a first tip extending beyond the bone on a first side and a second tip extending beyond the bone on an opposite side of the bone and into the first guide hole when the guide block is positioned on the opposite side of the bone, and the second alignment pin has a length sufficient that the second alignment pin extends completely through the bone with a third tip extending beyond the bone on the first side and a fourth tip extending beyond the bone on the opposite side,

wherein the resection surface of reference is a plane,

wherein the guide block is formed to include a second guide hole extending through the guide block, the second guide hole being sized to receive a drill sized to form

a hole in the bone sized to receive the second alignment pin, the second guide hole being oriented with respect to the first guide hole to define a first plane therewith,

wherein the second alignment pin has a length sufficient that the second alignment pin extends completely through the bone with the third tip extending beyond the bone on the first side and the fourth tip extending beyond the bone on the opposite side and into the second guide hole when the guide block is positioned on the opposite side of the bone, and

wherein the guide block is formed to include a first saw guide and a second saw guide said first and second saw guides being positioned to guide the wire saw along the resection plane of reference when the wire saw is received in the first and second saw guides, the first alignment pin is received in the bone and the first guide hole and the second alignment pin is received in the bone and the second guide hole.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the first saw guide, second saw guide, first guide hole and second guide hole define the first a plane.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 ~~9~~ wherein the guide block is formed to include a third guide hole extending through the guide block, the third guide hole being sized to receive a drill sized to form a hole in the bone sized to receive an alignment pin, the third guide hole being oriented with respect to the first guide hole to define a second plane therewith oriented at an angle with respect to the first plane defined ~~by the first and second guide holes~~ and further comprising a third alignment pin configured to be inserted through a third incision into the bone in a third orientation, the third alignment pin having a length sufficient that the third alignment pin extends

completely through the bone with a fifth ~~one~~ tip extending beyond the bone on the ~~a~~ first side and a sixth ~~the second~~ tip extending beyond the bone on the opposite side.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 13~~

A wire cutting system for resecting a bone through incisions of the type utilized for arthroscopic procedures, the system comprising:

a first alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into a bone in a first orientation;

a second alignment pin configured to inserted through one of the incisions into the bone in a second orientation;

a wire saw; and

a saw driver configured to be guided by the first alignment pin through the bone and to drive the wire saw guided by the saw driver and the second alignment pin through the bone,

wherein the first alignment pin and the second alignment pin are configured and oriented to define a resection surface of reference through which the bone is to be resected and the wire saw is configured to be inserted through at least one of the incisions and for extending at least from the first alignment pin to the second alignment pin to be simultaneously guided by the first and second alignment pins while being moved to resect the bone,

wherein the first alignment pin has a length sufficient that the first alignment pin extends completely through the bone with a first tip extending beyond the bone on a first

side and a second tip extending beyond the bone on an opposite side and the second alignment pin has a length sufficient that the second alignment pin extends completely through the bone with a third tip extending beyond the bone on the first side and a fourth tip extending beyond the bone on the opposite side, and

wherein the saw driver includes a shaft adapted to be driven by a rotary drill to rotate about an axis, a body coupled at a first end to the shaft to be rotated thereby about the axis, the body including a second end formed to include teeth adapted to cut through the bone and a wall extending between the first end and the second end, the wall being formed to include a driver surface for engaging the wire saw and driving the same during rotation of the body.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the body includes a cavity formed in the second end and extending into the body toward the first end, the cavity being sized to receive the first alignment pin therein.

Claim 16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the wire saw forms a loop and the driver surface comprises an annular groove formed in the wall.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1 and further comprising~~
A wire cutting system for resecting a bone through incisions of the type utilized for arthroscopic procedures, the system comprising:

a first alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into a bone in a first orientation;

a second alignment pin configured to be inserted through one of the incisions into the bone in a second orientation;

a wire saw; and

a saw frame including a shaft adapted to be coupled to an oscillator, a finger coupled to the shaft at a first ~~one~~ end for movement between a retracted position wherein a second end of the finger is adjacent the shaft and an extended position wherein the second end is displaced from the shaft and wherein the wire saw is coupled to the shaft and the finger adjacent the second end to be tensioned between the shaft and the second ~~end~~ finger when the second ~~end~~ finger is in the extended position,

wherein the first alignment pin and the second alignment pin are configured and oriented to define a resection surface of reference through which the bone is to be resected and the wire saw is configured to be inserted through at least one of the incisions and for extending at least from the first alignment pin to the second alignment pin to be simultaneously guided by the first and second alignment pins while being moved to resect the bone.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein the second ~~end~~ finger is formed from a shape memory alloy.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 ~~4~~ wherein the first and second alignment pins and the wire saw are configured to be inserted through incisions less than six centimeters long.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 + wherein the first and second alignment pins and the wire saw are configured to be inserted through incisions less than about two centimeters long.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 + wherein the first and second alignment pins and the wire saw are configured to be inserted through incisions about one centimeter long.

Claims 22-29. (canceled)

Claim 30. (original) An apparatus for resecting a bone comprising:

a wire saw;

a saw driver including a shaft adapted to be driven by a rotary drill to rotate about an axis, a body coupled at a first end to the shaft to be rotated thereby about the axis, the body including a second end formed to include teeth adapted to cut through the bone and a wall extending between the first end and the second end, the wall being formed to include a driver surface for engaging the wire saw and driving the same during rotation of the body.

Claim 31. (original) The apparatus of claim 30 and further comprising an alignment pin sized to extend through the bone and wherein the wire saw forms a loop and is configured to engage the driver surface and be driven by the saw driver when it is rotated and driven into the bone.

Claim 32. (original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the wire saw when driven is configured to be guided by the alignment pin when the pin is inserted in the bone.

Claim 33. (original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the saw driver is configured to be guided by the alignment pin through the bone.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33 and further comprising a second alignment pin sized to extend through the bone and wherein the wire saw forms a loop and is configured to engage the driver surface and be driven by the saw driver when it is rotated and driven into the bone and wherein the saw is configured to be guided by the saw driver and the second alignment pin through the bone.

Claim 35. (original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the body includes a cavity formed in the second end and extending into the body toward the first end, the cavity being sized to receive the first alignment pin therein.

Claim 36. (original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the driver surface comprises an annular groove formed in the wall.

Claims 37 - 44. (Canceled)